

VIII. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Solid waste disposal in the State of Alaska is regulated by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The community of Gustavus, as the owner and operator of a solid waste landfill, must ensure that the following general requirements⁷ are met:

1. Surface water runoff from outside the facility does not flow onto the landfill and over, into, or through uncovered or covered solid waste.
2. Solid waste is not placed in surface water.
3. Waste, leachate, or eroded soil from the landfill does not cause a violation of the water quality standards of the State.
4. Leachate from the landfill does not cause a violation of the drinking water quality standards in an aquifer that would otherwise be suitable for use as a drinking water supply.
5. Disease-carrying organisms such as rodents do not become a nuisance or a public health hazard.
6. Birds attracted to the facility do not present a hazard to aircraft flying in the vicinity of the landfill.
7. Wildlife and domestic animals are not allowed access to recyclable waste deposited at the facility.
8. Public access to the landfill is controlled to reduce safety hazards.
9. Dust, odor, noise, traffic, and other impacts from operating the landfill do not become a nuisance or hazard to the health, safety, or property of persons outside the boundary of the facility.
10. Litter is kept in the designated portion of the facility by a fence.

⁷ Solid Waste Management Regulations, 18 AAC 60, State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, October 1987.

In addition to the general requirements, the community of Gustavus also must meet the following operational requirements⁷:

1. The working face of the landfill is kept as small as practical to reduce the potential for windblown litter and the attraction of wildlife.
2. The solid waste is compacted in two-foot increments, and cover is applied weekly from June 1 through September 30 and monthly during other times of the year.
3. Cover material and drainage dikes are maintained to control drainage, to prevent erosion or damage to the landfill or any containment structure, and to restrict the amount of water entering the landfill.

In addition to the general and operational requirements listed above, disposal of septic tank sludge requires the following additional requirements:

1. The sludge is dewatered and contains at least 10 percent solids by weight if disposed in a landfill.
2. The sludge is covered at once or otherwise managed to prevent health hazards and odor nuisances if disposed in a landfill.

It is anticipated that a landfill developed at Gustavus will have a separate lagoon for the treatment and disposal of septic tank sludge. This lagoon will be fenced but will not require the immediate covering of sludge discharged into the lagoon.

⁷ Ibid.